

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 SAM-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /047 W

----- 032665

O 311415Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6581

C O N F I D E N T I A L 1635

FOR SISCO FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, SA

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR VISA

REF: A) STATE 63360; B) JIDDA 1479

1. DURING CALL ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMMED MAS'UD TODAY (MARCH 31), I MENTIONED AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSIONS WITH OMAR SAQQAF (REF B) ABOUT VISA FOR JOSEPH KRAFT AND NOTED VISA NOT YET RECEIVED. DID THE MINISTER HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON ITS STATUS?

2. AFTER A TELEPHONED INQUIRY, MAS'UD SAID SAQQAF HAD DESPATCHED TELEGRAM TO KING REQUESTING AUTHORITY TO ISSUE VISA, BUT THAT NO REPLY HAD YET BEEN RECEIVED FROM RIYADH. MAS'UD ADDED THAT SOMETIMES HIS MAJESTY DELIBERATES OVER SUCH ISSUES AND, IN THIS CASE, MAY BE REFLECTING UPON FACT THAT KRAFT JEWISH WITH AN EQUIVOCAL STAND ON ARAB-ISRAELI QUESTION. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, TO SEND FOLLOW-UP QUERY TO RIYADH.

3. I TOLD MAS'UD THAT KRAFT EXTREMELY WELL-KNOWN JOURNALIST WHO PROBABLY HAD THE INTELLECTUAL STATUS TO BENEFIT BY A VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND REPORT ON IT FAIRLY. I NOTED ALSO KRAFT HAD SOME YEARS AGO WRITTEN AN EXTREMELY GOOD BOOK ON THE ALGERIAN WAR WHICH, WHILE BALANCED, NONETHELESS SHOWED A SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF FLN.

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4. AMBASSADOR AKINS WILL BE BACK APRIL 3, AND SAQQAF IS EXPECTED TO RETURN THE FIRST OR SECOND. AMBASSADOR SHOULD BE SEEING SAQQAF APRIL 4 AND CAN FOLLOW UP WITH HIM THEN IF WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A REPLY FROM RIYADH.
HORAN

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NNN

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